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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-30 are pending. Please amend claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

***Listing of Claims***

1. (currently amended) An image processing apparatus for processing an image in accordance with property information for defining an image processing method for processing image data of the image and for specifying an image output format of the image data, comprising:
  - inputting means for inputting the image data, key information used for recognizing alteration of the image data, and the property information;
  - judging means for judging from the image data and the key information input by said inputting means whether the image data was altered; and
  - controlling means for controlling an execution of the image processing method in accordance with a judgement by said judging means and the property information.
2. (original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an interface for accessing a detachable memory wherein the image data, the key information and the property information are stored in the detachable memory.
3. (original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the property information defines the image processing method used for executing printing output.

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4. (original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the property information defines contents of the control to be executed by said controlling means in accordance with the judgement by said judging means.
5. (original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image data input by said inputting means includes a digital signature, the key information is key information used for the digital signature, and said image processing apparatus further comprises digital signature decrypting means for decrypting the digital signature by using the key information.
6. (original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said judging means executes a judgement process by comparing information obtained by calculating the image data in a predetermined manner with information obtained by said digital signature decrypting means.
7. (currently amended) An image processing method for processing an image in accordance with property information for defining an image data processing method image and for specifying an image output format of the image data, comprising the steps of:
  - inputting image data, key information used for recognizing alteration of the image data, and the property information;
  - judging from the image data and the key information input at said inputting step whether the image data was altered; and

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controlling an execution of the image processing method in accordance with a judgement at said judging step and the property information.

8. (currently amended) A ~~storage medium storing processor implementable instructions~~ computer-readable memory storing a data processing program for controlling a processor to carry out the method on claim 7.
9. (original) An image processing system with an interface capable of accessing a memory medium, comprising:
  - information reading means for reading a digital signature of image file data stored in the memory medium, a secret key used for the digital signature, or a public key paired to the secret key, together with the image file data and property information for defining an image processing method for processing image data image and for specifying an image output format of the image data; and
  - image output controlling means for outputting an image in accordance with information read by said information reading means.
10. (original) An image processing system according to claim 9, further comprising digital signature decrypting means for decrypting the digital signature of the image file data read by said information reading means by using the public key.

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11. (original) An image processing system according to claim 9, further comprising calculating means for calculating an image file specific value obtained from the image file data by using one-way function.
12. (original) An image processing system according to claim 9, further comprising image file data examining means for examining the image file data in accordance with a data value obtained by said digital signature decrypting means and the value obtained by the calculating means.
13. (currently amended) An image processing system with an interface capable of accessing a memory medium, comprising:
  - memory medium detecting means for detecting a connection of the memory medium to the interface;
  - information reading means, responsive to a detection of the connection of the memory medium by said memory medium detecting means, for reading a digital signature of image file data stored in the memory medium, a secret key used for the digital signature, or a public key paired to the secret key, together with the image file data and property information for defining an image processing method for processing image data image and for specifying an image output format of the image data; and
  - image output controlling means for outputting an image in accordance with information read by said information reading means.

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14. (currently amended) An image processing system with an interface capable of accessing a memory medium, comprising:

image file data generating means for generating image file data to be stored in the memory medium;

property information generation means for generating property information for defining an image processing method for processing the image file data and for specifying an image output format of the image file data;

image file data storing means for storing the image file data generated by said image file data generating means and the property information generated by said property information generation means in the memory medium;

calculating means for calculating an image file specific value obtained from the image file data by using a one-way function; and

digital signature generating means for generating a digital signature by ~~decrypting~~ decrypting the value calculated by said calculating means by using a secret key stored in the memory medium.

15. (currently amended) An image processing system according to claim 14, further comprising:

first storing means for storing the digital signature generated by said digital signature generating means together with property information for defining an image data processing method for processing image data in a property area of the memory medium; and second storing ~~means~~ means for storing the image file data to be signed in the memory medium.

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16. (original) An image processing system according to claim 14, wherein the secret key for decrypting the value calculated by said calculating means is an apparatus specific secret key.
17. (original) An image processing system according to claim 14, further comprising secret key generating means for newly generating a secret key for decrypting the value calculated by said calculating means, in accordance with a user definition.
18. (currently amended) An image processing method for an image processing system with an interface capable of accessing a memory medium, the method comprising the steps of:  
reading a digital signature of image file data stored in the memory medium, a secret key used for the digital signature, or a public key paired to the secret key, together with the image file data and property information for defining an image processing method for processing image data and for specifying an image output format of the image data; and  
outputting an image in accordance with information read at said information reading step.
19. (original) An image processing method according to claim 18, further comprising a step of decrypting the digital signature of the image file data read at said information reading step by using the public key stored in the memory medium.

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20. (original) An image processing method according to claim 18, further comprising a step of calculating an image file specific value obtained from the image file data by using one-way function.
21. (original) An image processing method according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of:
- decrypting the digital signature of the image file data;
  - comparing a value obtained at said digital signature decrypting step with the value obtained at the calculating step; and
  - examining the image file data in accordance with a comparison result at said comparing step.
22. (currently amended) An image processing method for an image processing system with an interface capable of accessing a memory medium, comprising:
- a memory medium detecting step of detecting a connection of the memory medium to the interface; a reading step, responsive to a detection of the connection of the memory medium at said memory medium detecting step, of reading a digital signature of image file data stored in the memory medium, a secret key used for the digital signature, or a public key paired to the secret key, together with the image file data and property information for defining an image processing method for processing image data and for specifying an image output format of the image data; and
  - outputting an image in accordance with information read at said reading step.

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23. (currently amended) An image processing method for an image processing system with an interface capable of accessing a memory medium, comprising the steps of:
- generating image file data to be stored in the memory medium;
  - generating property information for defining an image processing method for  
processing the image file data and for specifying an image output format of the  
image file data;
  - storing the image file data generated at said image file data generating step and the  
property information generated at said property information generation step in the  
memory medium;
  - calculating an image file specific value obtained from the image file data by using a  
one-way function; and
  - generating a digital signature by ~~decrypting~~ decrypting the value calculated at said  
calculating step by using a secret key stored in the memory medium.
24. (original) An image processing method for an image processing system according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
- storing the digital signature generated at said digital signature generating step  
together with a property file in a property area of the memory medium; and
  - storing the image file data to be signed in an image file area of the memory  
medium.
25. (original) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the secret key for decrypting the value calculated at said calculating step is an apparatus specific secret key.



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26. (original) An image processing method according to claim 20, further comprising a step of newly generating a secret key for decrypting the value calculated at said calculating step, in accordance with a user definition.
27. (currently amended) A memory card storing:  
image data file;  
digital signature information of said image data file;  
secret key information used for the digital signature;  
public key information paired to said secret key; and  
property information defining an image processing method for processing image data  
and for specifying an image output format of the image data.
28. (currently amended) ~~A storage medium storing processor-implementable instructions~~  
computer-readable memory storing a data processing program for controlling a processor to carry out the method on claim 18.
29. (currently amended) ~~A storage medium storing processor-implementable instructions~~  
computer-readable memory storing a data processing program for controlling a processor to carry out the method on claim 22.
30. (currently amended) ~~A storage medium storing processor-implementable instructions~~  
computer-readable memory storing a data processing program for controlling a processor to carry out the method on claim 23.

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